

REMARKS

Claims 2-6, 11, 12, 15-21, 23 and 24 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 7, 8, 13, 14 and 22 are cancelled.

This Amendment should be entered after Final Rejection because it places this application in condition for allowance by canceling all objected-to/rejected claims. Thus, no new issues are raised by this Amendment.

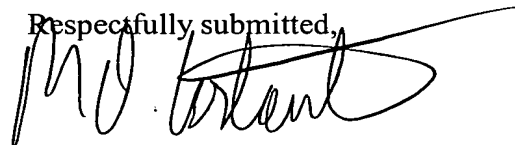
Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of claims 2-6, 11, 12 and 15-24.¹

As claims 7, 8, 13, 14 and 22, identified on page 2, item 2 of the Office Action, have been cancelled, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe anything further would be desirable to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Mario A. Costantino
Registration No. 33,565

MAC/ccs

Attachment:

Petition for Extension of Time

Date: February 17, 2004
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Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461
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¹ It is believed that the Office Action inadvertently included claim 22 in the allowed claims because the Office Action also included claim 22 as one of the objected-to claims.